

L'UMILE PIANTA.

OFFICIALS OF THE ASSOCIATION.

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*MISS M. W. KITCHING, 18, Hastings Road, Ealing.

Years 1898-1902—

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Years 1903-1906—

*MISS M. OWEN, The Elms, Ealing.

*MISS M. E. DAVIS, Albrian, View Road, Highgate, N.

Years 1907-1910—

*MISS M. E. FRANKLIN, 9, Cosmo Place, Queen Square,
W.C.

MISS V. BISHOP, Walton Lodge, Aylesbury, Bucks.

* Denotes re-elected members of the Students' Executive Committee.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS.

Steel, B. (1900), Ivydene, Leicester Street, Leamington.

Beatty, L. (1905), c/o Z.B.M. Mission, Proctor Road, iv. Girgaum, Bombay, India.

Bell, L. A. (1906), c/o J. H. Whitley, Esq., M.P., Brantwood, Halifax (post).

Biggar, H. C. (1908), 34, Thornton Road, Wimbledon, S.W. (post).

Hart, R. (1908), Elstree School, Elstree, Herts (post).

NOTICES.

All students who have not yet paid their subscriptions (due last January) are reminded to do so *now*, by return of post, if possible.

Subscriptions to the Scale How Mission Fund are now due, and should be sent to Miss K. S. Wood, 40, Upper Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells. Students will remember that the money collected is divided between the two Missions where fellow-students work—Hoxton and Uganda.

There was a Students' Meeting held on May 6th at 13, Chilworth Street, W., at which the following were present: Misses M. Davis, M. Evans, L. Faunce, L. Gray, C. Henderson, E. M. MacSheehy, D. Oliver, and F. Young. All but one of the number had been up at the Conference, so that Ambleside was the topic of conversation, and everybody enjoyed a good talk over the various events of that most delightful week-end.

At the Association Meeting held on April 25th it was decided to try an experiment in connection with the Students' Meetings held on the first Saturday of each month; it was thought that possibly they would be better attended if, instead of being always held at Chilworth Street, every other one should be held elsewhere, either at some Gallery or Church or other place of interest. It has been left to the

S.E.C. to draw up a Winter Programme to be published in the September number of the PIANTA. Any student interested in this should write to Miss Gray suggesting places of meeting, before June 15th, so that the programme can be arranged before the holidays.

Miss Wix can strongly recommend any student wishing to go to Germany for the holidays, to a place near Bonn. The lady is very nice, and the place delightful.

Many interesting articles have had to be omitted owing to want of space; also most of the included articles have had to be shortened for the same reason.

There will be no July issue of L'UMILE PIANTA, this number being extra large on account of the Conference news. The next PLANT will therefore appear on September 15th. All communications must reach the Editor by August 20th.

BIRTH.

TOD.—On February 18th, at Wolstenholme Hall, near Rochdale, the wife of J. N. Tod, Esq., of a daughter, Sybil Gertrude Niebuhr Tod.

MARRIAGES.

BOURNE—LAKE.—On April 27th, at the Parish Church, Runcorn, by the Ven. Archdeacon Maitland Wood, assisted by Rev. A. E. Bourne, father of the bridegroom, Ernest Spencer Bourne to Hilda Marshall Lake, eldest daughter of F. A. Lake, Esq., of the Cliffe, Runcorn.

ROTHERA—ROTHERA.—On March 30th, at the High Pavement Chapel, by the Rev. J. M. Lloyd Thomas, Lambert, fourth son of Frederick William Rothera, of the Manor House, Kegworth, to Marion, second daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Lambert Rothera, of Nottingham.

DEATH.

WILLIAMS.—On April 8th, at 2, Fernbank Road, Redland, Bristol, Edith O. Williams.

LETTERS TO THE STUDENTS.

MAYFIELD, MAIDSTONE,

May 1st, 1911.

DEAR FELLOW STUDENTS,

I cannot sufficiently thank you nor tell you how touched and pleased I was by the kind thought which sent me your beautiful present this morning. The pictures are already hung in my new schoolroom, where they have been already *much* admired by the girls, and where they will be a perpetual reminder to them and to me that in a Parents' Union School we never work alone, but are one of a fellowship. I feel all unworthy of your kind gift when I think of what terrible shortcomings the circumstances of these latter years have entailed in the work I was privileged to do for you, and I hope in the hands of a successor with fewer hindrances the work of the Association and L'UMILE PIANTA may flourish as they have never yet done.

It was a real pleasure to think that so many of you had been able to enjoy another sight of the beautiful scenes of the pictures you so very kindly sent me, and which will be to me, in some measure, a consolation for my enforced absence from the Conference. Thanking you again from a full heart,—Yours affectionately,

R. AMY PENNETHORNE.

PRESHAW, UPHAM, HANTS.

DEAR FELLOW STUDENTS,

There is very little space for this letter, as the number is already overcrowded, but I feel I must thank you for having elected me Editor.

I hope to be a worthy successor to our past Editor and founder of the PIANTA, and must beg you to be patient with me in any mistakes I make.—Yours sincerely,

HELEN E. WIN.

40, UPPER GROSVENOR ROAD,

TUNBRIDGE WELLS,

April 20th, 1911.

DEAR FELLOW STUDENTS,

I hope you are having a very successful Conference, with nice weather, a large gathering, good debates, and a good time generally. I have not had any letter from Miss Smyth, except one to acknowledge the postal order; so I have not anything fresh to write about her work, and I think Miss Conder is writing about hers. I was able to send £1 16s. 6d. to each last Christmas, subscribed by 26 students. I hope the number will increase this year, so that we may feel that it is really a representative students' fund.—Yours sincerely,

KATE S. WOOD.

2, WENLOCK STREET, HOXTON, N.

April 21st, 1911.

MY DEAR FRIENDS,

My letter of thanks to you for the money you sent at Christmas is rather late, but you must forgive me, as I really have had no opportunity of writing until now. I used the money to give about forty of our poorest children a Christmas tree on Tuesday, December 27th. A friend dressed up as Father Christmas, to the great delight of the children, and distributed the presents to them. The best presents were given to the children we had known longest, while the few that had turned up about Christmas time to see if there was "anything going" were put off with 1d. and 2d. toys. I gave some of the big ragged boys warm jerseys, which were much appreciated by the parents as well as the children. Nearly all the girls had dolls, which rejoiced their hearts as nothing else can. I think the Hoxton child loves a doll almost better than any other class of child, and they can often be seen about the streets nursing headless babies or even rolling up their pinafores just "to pretend

they have a dollie." I wish you could have seen their happy faces when Father Christmas handed them a *real* doll for their *very* own. The little boys were given soldiers, drums, trumpets, paints, etc. I find that soldiers and drums are the most popular toys, and you can imagine what a noise there was in the room by the time they all had something, especially as some of the penny toys were mouth organs. They went home with beaming faces and full hands, and I have since been told by many little friends that the Christmas tree "wasn't 'arf all right." This expression is superlative, and means that things could not possibly have been better. They send their best thanks to the "ladies who sent them the beautiful toys." You would love the Hoxton children; they are so wonderfully affectionate, and respond to the slightest attention paid to them. I suppose it is the result of the lack of open affection shown in their own homes. Of course these people love their children just as much as anybody else, but there is no time for the outward signs. The cry is so often, "Get along out of my way; I'm washing. Take the baby and go in the street and play. Shan't I be glad when school begins again and I can get rid of you all." Then, of course, some of them have bad homes, and then it is so difficult to make any sort of impression on the children. One day I was teaching them the Third Commandment, and when I asked what it meant they answered promptly, "You mustn't swear," and I said, "Yes, you know some people never say God's name except to swear," and a little boy of 9 looked up at me and said, "Yes, that's what my mother does." He was an exceptionally troublesome boy, and I had often thought I should have to get rid of him, but after that I was determined to keep him at all costs, and he certainly has improved. Of course the parents are not all like that; but even the little children sometimes use dreadful language, and they do steal and tell lies, and sometimes we get rather disheartened about it all. But after all we can only do our best, hope on and

pray on, not bothering about the visible result. I hope I have not written too long a letter. I wish I could have been at Ambleside this week, but it was quite impossible. My warmest thanks to you all and every good wish for a successful Conference.—Yours very sincerely,

MABEL CONDER.

AMBLESIDE CONFERENCE, 1911.

In spite of bad weather, this week-end Conference appears from all accounts to have been the best of any ever held. From beginning to end there was no hitch; all was enjoyable and inspiring. The following students were up for it:—J. J. Aitken, E. C. Allen, M. Benyon-Winsor, G. M. Bernau, H. C. Biggar, G. Bradford, T. E. Brown, M. Butler, D. Chalmers, G. Clendinnen, K. Clendinnen, C. Cooper, H. M. Cordeux, J. E. Crayden, M. E. Davis, A. C. Drury, A. Duyvis, C. E. Edwards, M. F. Evans, L. C. Faunce, G. Flewker, E. E. Flower, H. M. Fountain, M. E. Franklin, E. Frost, Mrs. Tod (*née* Garnier), M. K. Glascott, B. M. Goode, L. Gray, R. Hart, C. E. Henderson, W. S. Henderson, M. S. Lobjoit, W. L. Lorimer, K. Loveday, L. M. Macdonald, J. Macfarlane, M. MacSheehy, C. Mann, L. H. Morris, A. M. Neild, P. C. Nevitt-Bennett, M. E. Owen, E. A. Parish, E. M. Pike, H. E. Pollard, K. M. Rowbotham, M. E. Saunders, V. R. Saunders, Harriet Smeeton, Hilda Smeeton, E. A. Smith, J. H. Smith, H. M. Stubbs, Mrs. Esslemont (*née* Thomson), O. Thorp, D. Viney, G. Viney, R. J. Watters, E. West-Symes, J. Wilkinson, M. Willis, E. F. A. Winter, F. W. Young.

The following students sent messages of regret at not being present and good wishes for the success of the Conference:—L. A. Bell, G. Biggar, G. Bradley, E. M. Brookes, D. Brownell, A. M. Cox, E. Crowe, M. Dixon, — East, A. C. Edgar, G. E. M. Francis, T. Gilbert, V. Good,